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wherein said recombinant adenovirus genome additionally contains a transgene.

38. (amended) A replication-defective recombinant adenovirus, wherein the genome of said adenovirus contains at least two lethal deletions, two lethal mutations, or one lethal deletion and one lethal mutation in the E1 and E4 early gene regions, wherein an essential region of the E4 early gene region is deleted or mutated, so that the recombinant adenovirus requires for replication at a minimum complementation of genes of both the E1 and E4 adenoviral early regions in the absence of expression of additional adenoviral gene regions in trans, and wherein said recombinant adenovirus genome additionally contains a transgene.

46. (amended) A recombinant adenoviral vector, wherein said vector comprises at least a lethal deletion or mutation in two gene regions selected from the group consisting of E1, E2A, E4 early gene regions, viral structural genes, and additionally comprises a transgene so that when rescued the resulting recombinant adenovirus requires for replication at a minimum complementation of genes of both the E1 and E4 adenoviral early regions in the absence of expression of additional adenoviral gene regions in trans.

47. (amended) A recombinant adenoviral vector comprising at least a lethal deletion in each of adenovirus E1 and E4 early gene regions, and a transgene so that when

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rescued the resulting recombinant adenovirus requires for replication at a minimum complementation of genes of both the E1 and E4 early regions in the absence of expression of additional adenoviral gene regions in trans.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

In the Abstract on line 13, following the phrase "vectors." please insert the following: -- The present invention further relates to novel vectors characterized by an additional lethal deletion in the E2A early gene region and packaging cell lines which supply the function of the E2A and E4 early gene regions.--

REMARKS

Attorneys for Applicant note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated Claims 39-45, 48-50 and 57 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 37, 38, 46, 47, 52, 54 and 56 have been amended to more clearly indicate that which Applicants always intended to be the present invention and further, to limit the issues and place the pending claims in condition for allowance. As requested by the Examiner, an appendix of the claims pending upon entry of this amendment is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Abstract has been amended as requested by the Examiner to be commensurate in scope with the claimed invention.